

# "Range influence factors of electric bikes and other electric vehicles"

Author and presenter: Prof. Alex Van den Bossche  
Ghent University, Electrical Energy Lab  
Technologiepark 913, B9052 Zwijnaarde Belgium

WEBikeC 2016  
**Workshop on electric bicycle commuting**  
June 9, 2016 - Gebroeders Desmetstraat 1  
BE-9000 Ghent | Belgium

## General view

Rolling losses are important compared to drag losses around cities with low speed and traffic jams

The weight of most vehicles did increase in the last 30 years, but the tendency is down again.

Aerodynamic drag may be important in two wheel vehicles.

# Introduction

$$P_{\text{tot}} = \text{rolling loss} + \text{drag loss} + \text{altitude increase} + \text{auxiliaries}$$

Technical [1-7]

Altitude and kinetic energy can be partly recovered in EV

**In E-bikes: compromise freewheel or energy recovery**

Better electric motors material, transistors.

⇒ **mechanical losses get important for possible improvements in and EV**

ICE car driver:

**“Liter/100km”**

1000 km range

= average in altitude, wind

Many times A-B and B-A

BEV driver:

**From “A to B”**

“range anxiety”?

Altitude, wind

= more important

E-biker:

**From “A to B”**

Need a second

battery?

Or a physically heavy

end of trip?

Improvements?

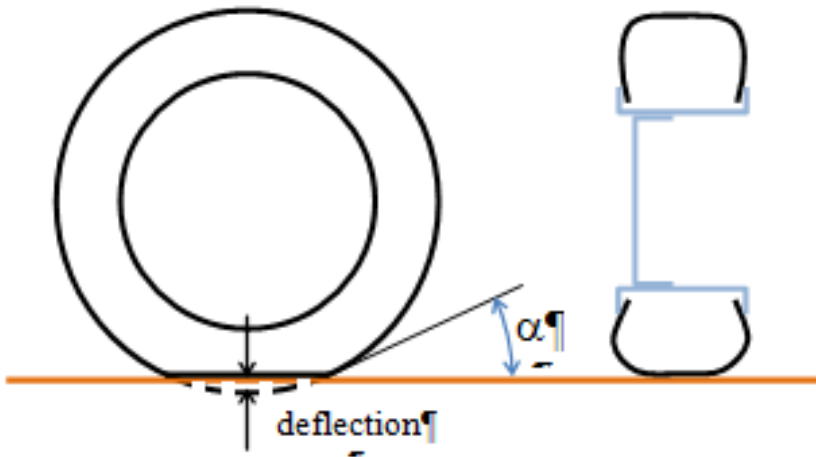
Conventional – BEV?

Global:

CO<sub>2</sub>, resources

# Rolling losses

$$F_R = g M C_R$$

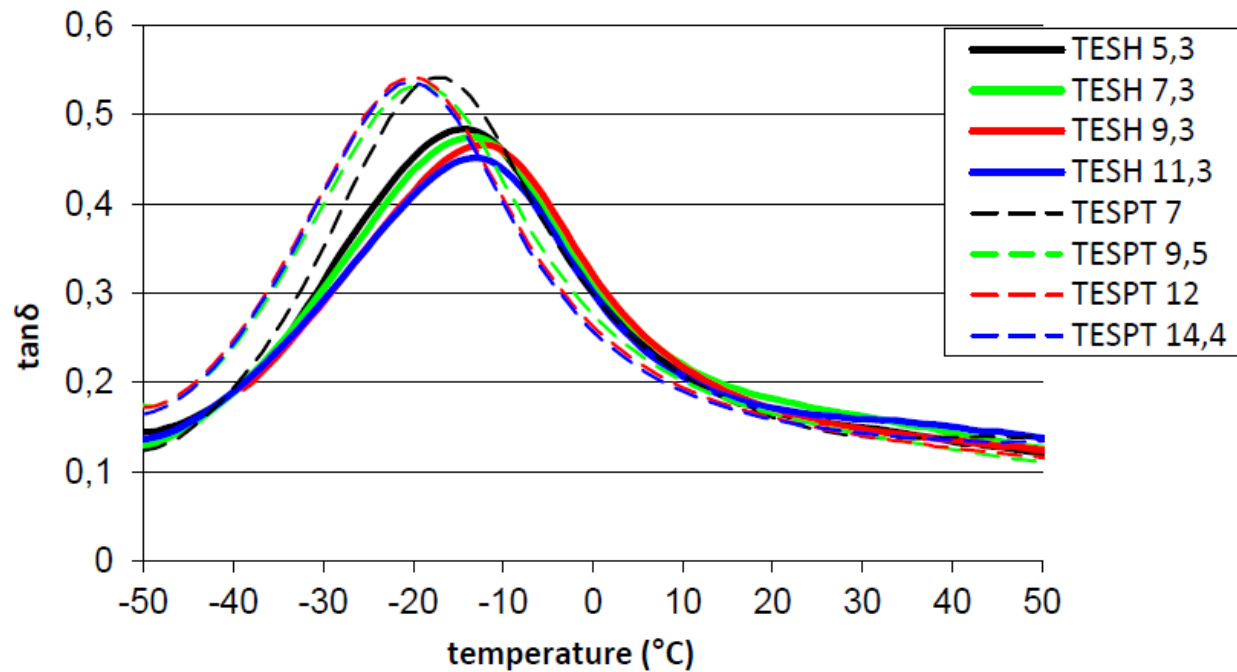


- Side and thread has less losses at high pressure.
- Tread blocks have more losses at high pressure, but less mass in the blocks.
- More losses in a new tire as there is more mass in the tread blocs

The test drum diameter and road type influences the result by the local deflection (only good to compare)

<http://www.bicyclerollingresistance.com/tour-reviews/compare>

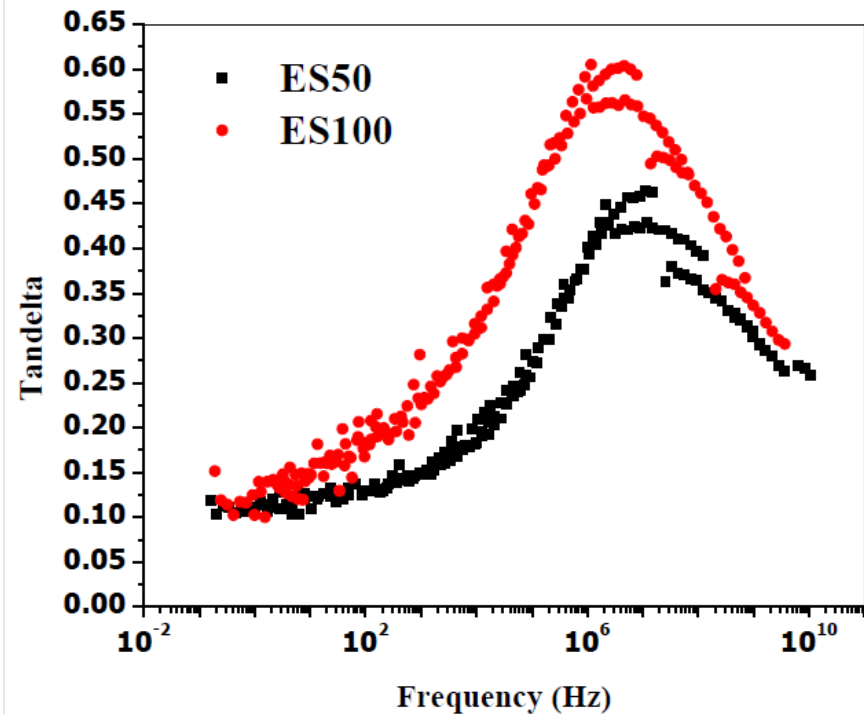
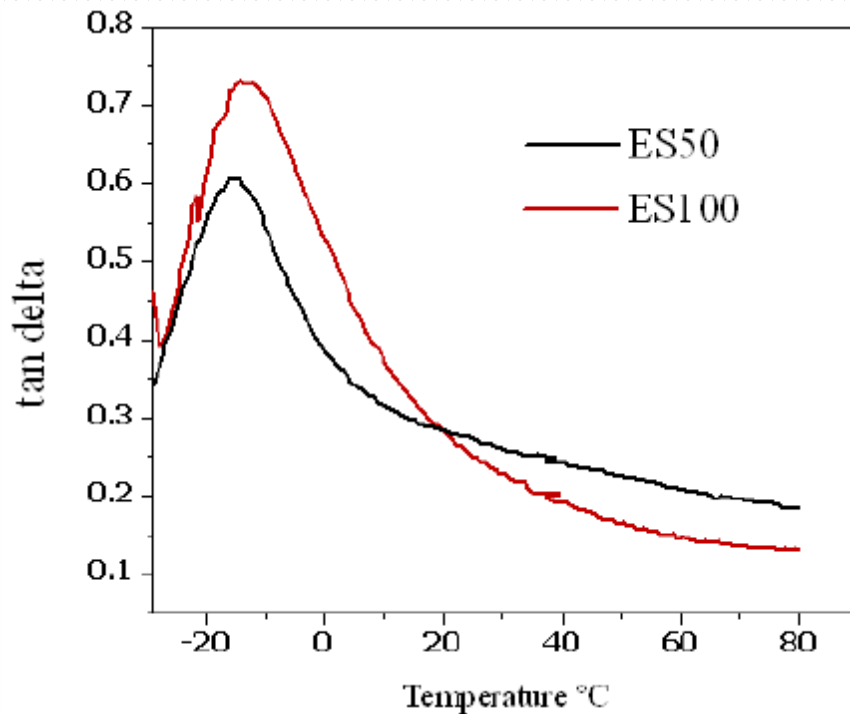
# Rolling losses



Reference from the Netherlands [5]

Rubber optimized at lower temperatures <50°

# Rolling losses



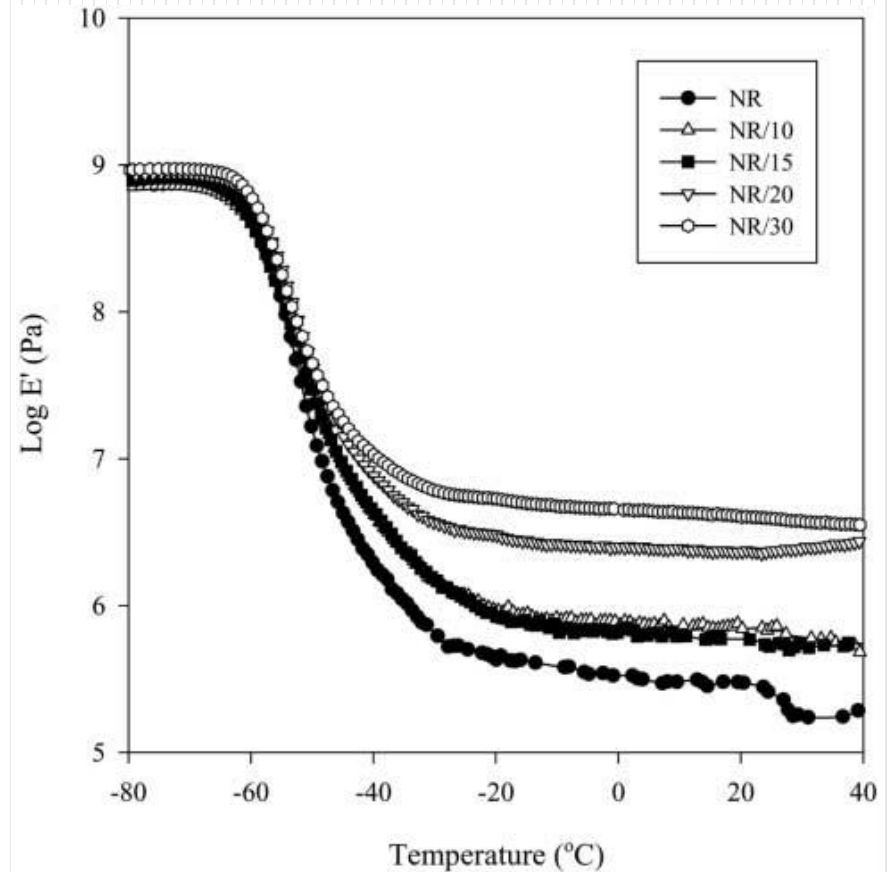
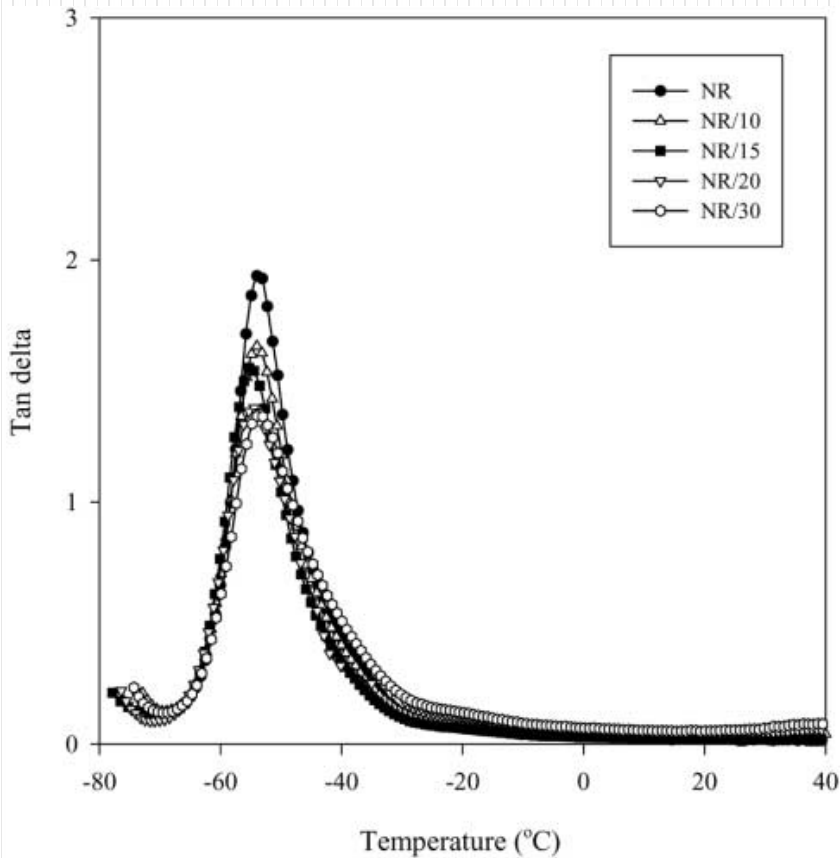
At higher temperatures, source from India [6], up to 80 $^{\circ}\text{C}$

ES100 contains more silica

Frequency dependence, higher frequencies occur while touching

The region  $10^5$ - $10^8$  Hz  $\tan \delta$  in beneficial for wet skid performance in tread blocks

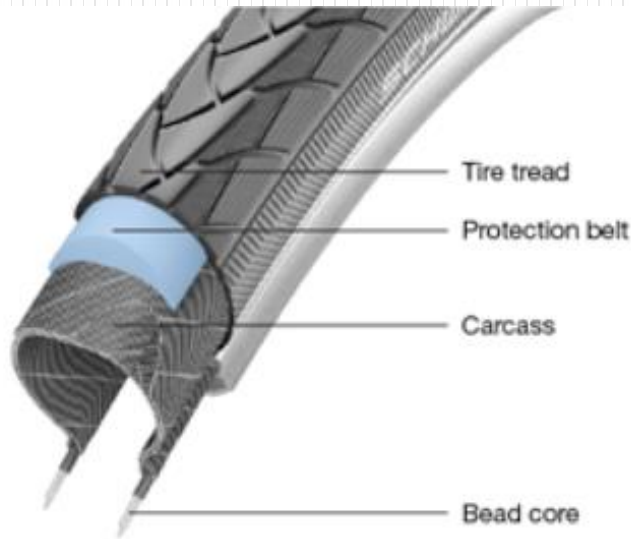
# Rolling losses



The pure natural rubber has both a low E-modul and a very low Tan delta, much lower than 0.1  
But additives are added to reduce ageing

Ageing Effect on Dynamic and Mechanical Properties of NR/Cel II Nanocomposites

# Rolling losses



Schwalbe\*: standard tires are equipped with an effective puncture protection belt made of natural rubber and reinforced with Kevlar® fibers (K-Guard)  
The protection belt increases the rolling loss, but increases reliability

\*: produced in Indonesia, Kevlar = aramid fibre,  
[http://www.schwalbetires.com/tech\\_info/tire\\_construction](http://www.schwalbetires.com/tech_info/tire_construction)

The density of steel wires makes it difficult to  
Punch trough by the tread  
But side walls are vulnerable



# Rolling losses



type	Load [kg]	Rolling Coeff.	Speed Limit [km/h]	Diam mm	Press[ Bar]	Price €/tire
<u>UC 95/80R16</u> Urban concept	100	0.15%	70	558	5 max	172
<u>Radial 45/75R16</u> Prototypes tire	100	0.14%	70	478	7 max	172
Type: 44-406 Prototype tyre	-	0.2%		500		58
Grand Prix TT Race bike continental	50	0.297%		622 rim	8.3	50
Truck 40 tonnes	5000	0.8%	130		8	200-800
Car (energy saving)	500	0.7-0.9%	150-250		2.2-2.6	60-100
Normal bike	70	0.7%			3	6-20

Solar race tires do not last long:  
One day or half a day  
Extreme tires = 1 euro/km?

<http://www.design-impact.org/blog/2009/08/extreme-efficiency-secrets-behind-miserly-solar-cars-part-iii-tires/>

Extreme rolling coefficient <0.2% is similar to railroad rolling  
**Energy “label A” tires only for “electric car” and for summer tires.....**

[http://www.eshopsem.com/boutique/manufacture.php?id\\_manufacturer=3](http://www.eshopsem.com/boutique/manufacture.php?id_manufacturer=3)  
<http://www.bicyclerollingresistance.com/road-bike-reviews/continental-grand-prix-tt-2016>

<https://www.bandenleader.be/auto-band/michelin/energy-e-v>

Australia race a story:

<http://www.gizmodo.com.au/2013/06/rubber-to-the-road-why-tyres-are-crucially-important-to-a-solar-car/>

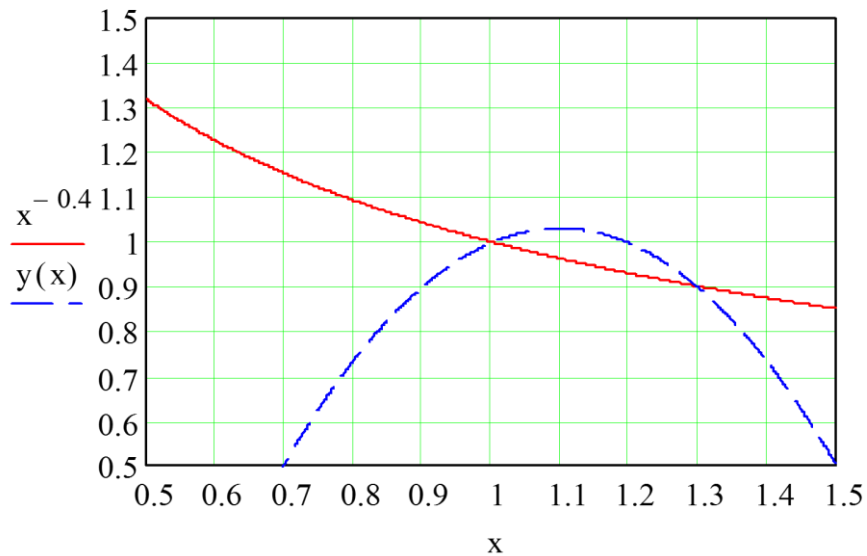
**“Rubber To The Road: Why Tyres Are Crucial To A Solar Car”** [“Greg Hatten](#)

The solar car gets 16-inch rims,... you could just shove a set of bike tyres on there if you liked, but tyres have a great effect over 3000km and we’ve heard from our little birds that in the last race, they’re what separated the peloton. So instead of doing that, we’re going with bloody expensive, tyres, at €500.

The Michelin Solar Car Radial tyre is 5x less in rolling resistance than a standard energy saving car tyre. That means, the energy it takes to move the car will be 5x less than your little hatchback, though it also means you wear through the tyres incredibly quickly. Over a 7 day race, in the middle of the desert and starting numerous times, you better bet we’d go for the best, Particularly since last year the teams that placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd all used these, accompanied by their million-dollar budgets.

Usually these tyres are incredibly difficult to get your hands on; initially in fact, you could only get these tyres through direct sponsorship from Michelin International in France. We have to thank the UNSW team though, who are on-selling us some they acquired, particularly since usually the limited allocation is reserved for the very best known and best run teams. Once these are attached to our brand new, single disc monocoque carbon fibre rims, also specifically made for this tyre in japan and you’ve got a world beater. Each rim weights about 1.2kg and can support 200kg per wheel. That’s a good thing when the car only weighs 250kg *with* the driver.

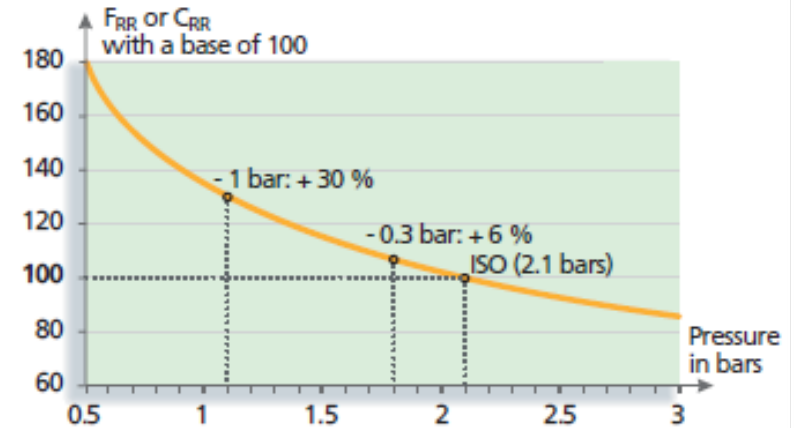
# Rolling losses



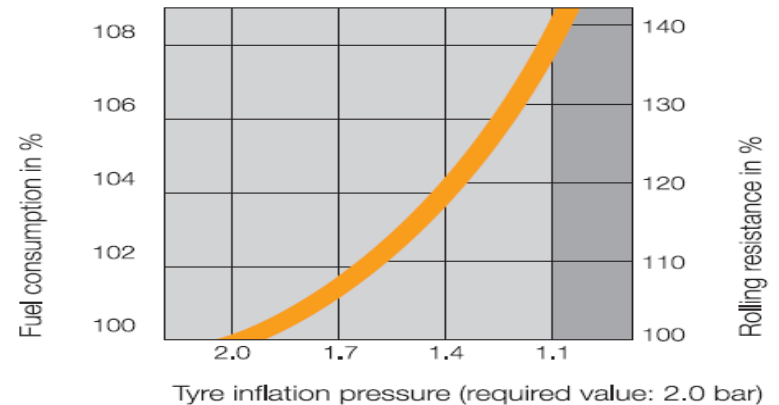
Rolling resistance: red  
Lifetime: dashed blue  
Depending on relative tire pressure

$$F_R = g M C_{Rref} \left( \frac{p}{p_{ref}} \right)^{-\alpha}$$

$$y(x) = 1.033 - 3.3 \left( \frac{p}{p_{ref}} - 1.1 \right)^2$$



Michelin [3]



Continental [7]

# Rolling losses

Thermal capacity of a car tire: 11.8 kJ/K

Typical thermal resistance of car type

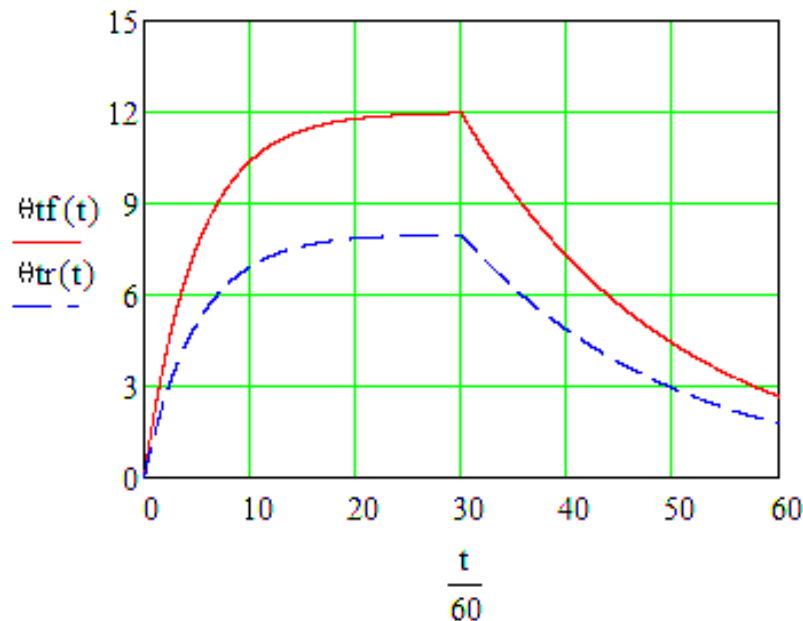
While driving: 0.025 K/W.

Standstill: 0.113 K/W

Time constant = Capacity  $\times$  resistance

$$C_{th} = W_r c_{pr} + W_{st} c_{pfe}$$

Rubber and iron



Typical tire temperature rise in [K]  
for:

- front tire  $\theta_{tf}$  (red)
- rear tire  $\theta_{tr}$  (blue, dashed)

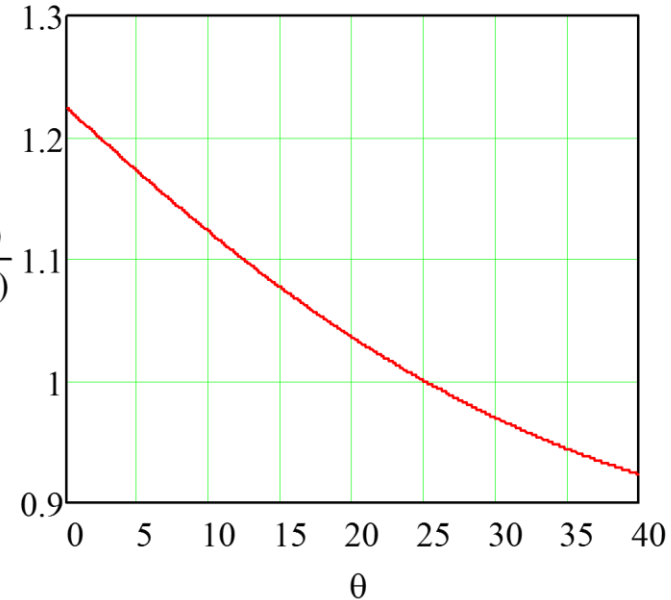
For a conventional car (Punto Evo)  
30 minute driving  
(5 and 20 minute time constants)

$$C_R(p, \theta, c) = 0.85 \left( \frac{\left( \frac{p}{p_{ref}} \right)^{-0.4} \left( \frac{Z}{Z_{ref}} \right)^{-0.15}}{1 + 0.35 \tanh\left(\frac{\theta - 25}{40}\right)} + \left( \frac{c}{500} \right)^2 \right)$$

“Collected tire equation”:

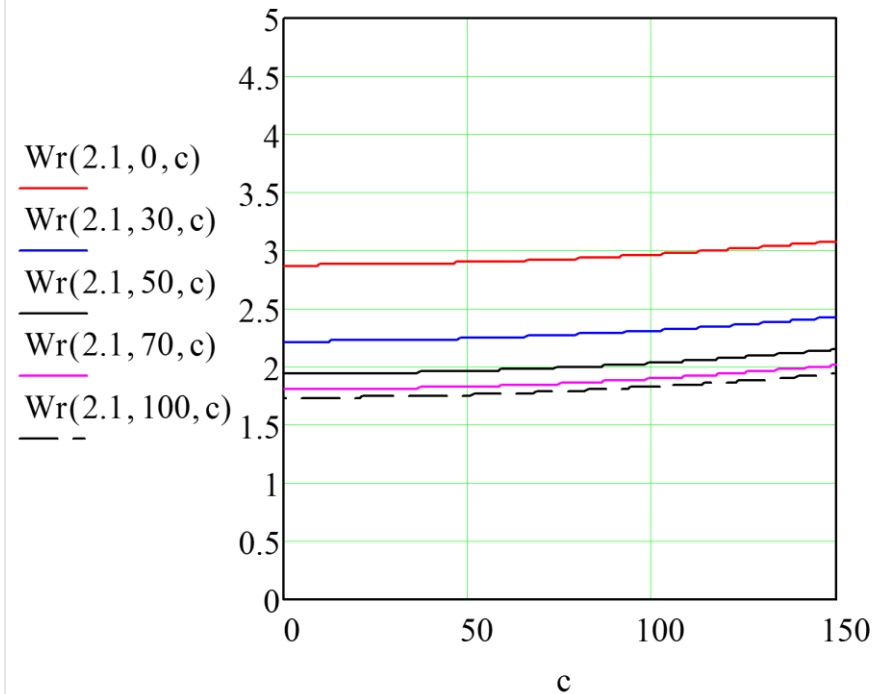
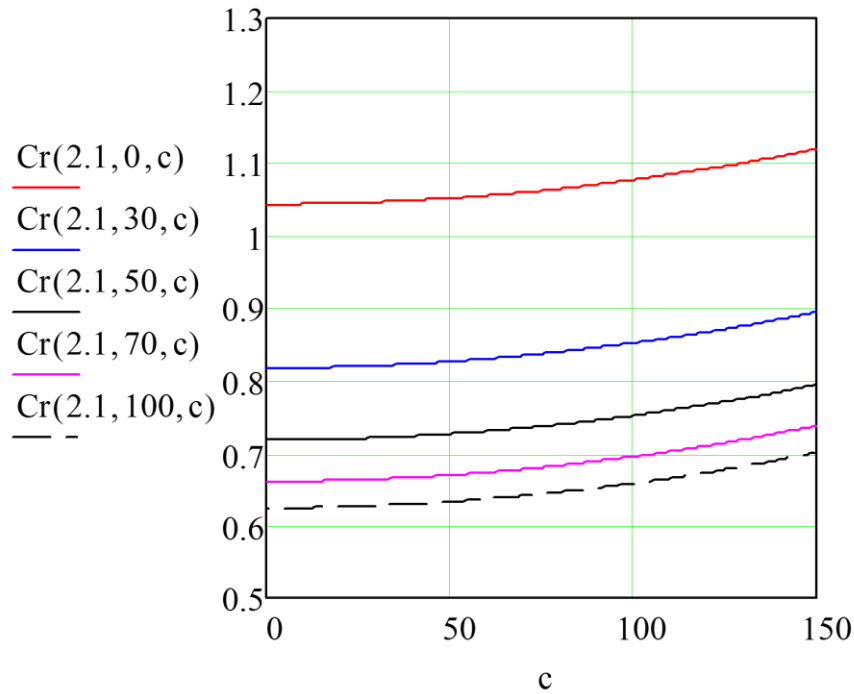
- $p$ : Pressure
- $Z$ : Load
- $\theta$ : tire temperature
- $c$ : speed [km/h]

$$\frac{Cr(2.1, \theta+15, 80)}{Cr(2.1, 25+15, 80)}$$



Effect of ambient temperature  
On relative rolling coefficient  
At 15K rise compared to ambient

# Rolling losses



Effect of tire temperature and speed:

Left: rolling coefficient [%]

Right: consumption [kWh/100km]

For  $p=p_{ref}$  and  $Z=Z_{ref}$   
**1000 kg vehicle**  
**Divide by 10 for bike**  
**≈ 200 Wh/ 100km?**

$$C_R(p, \theta, c) = 0.85 \left( \frac{\left( \frac{p}{p_{ref}} \right)^{-0.4} \left( \frac{Z}{Z_{ref}} \right)^{-0.15}}{1 + 0.35 \tanh\left(\frac{\theta - 25}{40}\right)} + \left( \frac{c}{500} \right)^2 \right)$$

Drag including local wind

$$Fd(c, c_{wx}) = \frac{1}{2} A C_d \rho_o \frac{273}{\theta + 273} \left( \frac{c - c_{wx}}{3.6} \right)^2 \frac{10^5}{3.6 \times 10^6}$$

[kWh/100km]

How to improve drag?

Manufacturer:

Design, smooth bottom (perfectly possible in electric), mirrors...

Droplet - Airfoil design

Try to get a beneficial effect from side wind.

User:

- Less open radiator surface at cold temperature: improves drag and warmer gear and motor.
- Flat wheel caps.

Example:  $C_d=0.3$   $A=2\text{m}^2$   $\rho_o=1.225 \text{ kg/m}^3$  (sea level  $15^\circ\text{C}$ )

## Drag including local wind

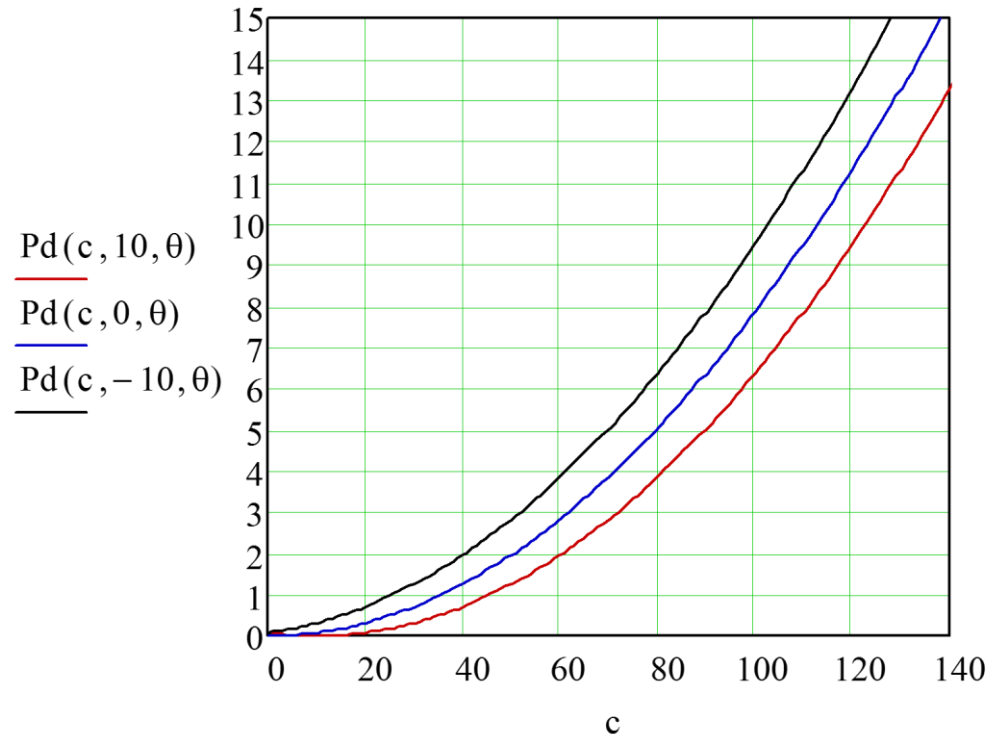
### Drag

- Without wind
- +10km/h
- -10km/h

A factor 9 at 20km/h =  
2.25 more or 4 times less  
Look at 60km/h,  
Still almost a factor 2!

Basic in kWh/100km depending in on speed for  
no wind, +10km/h and -10km/h, for  $C_d=0.3$  and  
 $A=2.0\text{m}^2$  and  $15^\circ\text{C}$   
2 times lower if  $C_d=0.6$  and  $0.5\text{ m}^2$  (bike)  
15 times lower if  $0.2\text{ m}^2$  velomobile  $C_d=0.2$

$$Fd(c, c_{wx}) = \frac{1}{2} A C_d \rho_o \frac{273}{\theta + 273} \left( \frac{c - c_{wx}}{3.6} \right)^2 \frac{10^5}{3.6 \times 10^6}$$





# Drag & Wind

Machine and rider	Drag coeff. on fron- tal area, c <sub>D</sub>	Frontal area		C <sub>D</sub> A	Power to overcome air drag at 10m/s (22mi/h) watts	Power to overcome rolling resistance AT 10m/s for specified total mass, kg, and C <sub>R</sub> value		
	C <sub>D</sub>	m <sup>2</sup>	ft <sup>2</sup>	m <sup>2</sup>	watts	kg.	C <sub>R</sub>	watts
Upright commuting bike	1.15	0.55	5.92	0.632	345	90	0.0060	53
Road bike, touring position	1.00	0.40	4.3	0.40	220	95	0.0045	38
Racing bike, rider crouched, tight clothing	0.88	0.36	3.9	0.32	176	81	0.0030	24
Road bike + Zipper fairing	0.52	0.55	5.92	0.29	157	85	0.0045	38
Road bike + pneumatic Aeroshell + bottom skirt	0.21	0.68	7.32	0.14	78.5	90	0.0045	40
Unfaired LWB recumbent (Tour Easy)	0.77	0.35	3.8	0.27	148	90	0.0045	40
Faired LWB recumbent (Avatar Blubell)	0.12	0.48	5.0	0.056	30.8	95	0.0045	42
Vector faired recumbent tricycle, single	0.11	0.42	4.56	0.047	25.8	105	0.0045	46
Road bike in Kyle fairing	0.10	0.71	7.64	0.071	39.0	90	0.0045	40
"M5" faired low racer	0.13	0.35	3.77	0.044	24.2	90	0.003	26
"Flux" SWB, rear fairing	0.55	0.35	3.77	0.194	107	90	0.004	35
Moser bicycle	0.51	0.42	4.52	0.214	118	80	0.003	24
Radius "Peer Gynt" unfaired	0.74	0.56	6.03	0.415	228	90	0.0045	40
"Peer Gynt" + front fairing	0.75	0.58	6.24	0.436	240	93	0.0045	41
ATB (mountain bike)	0.69	0.57	6.14	0.391	215	85	0.0060	50

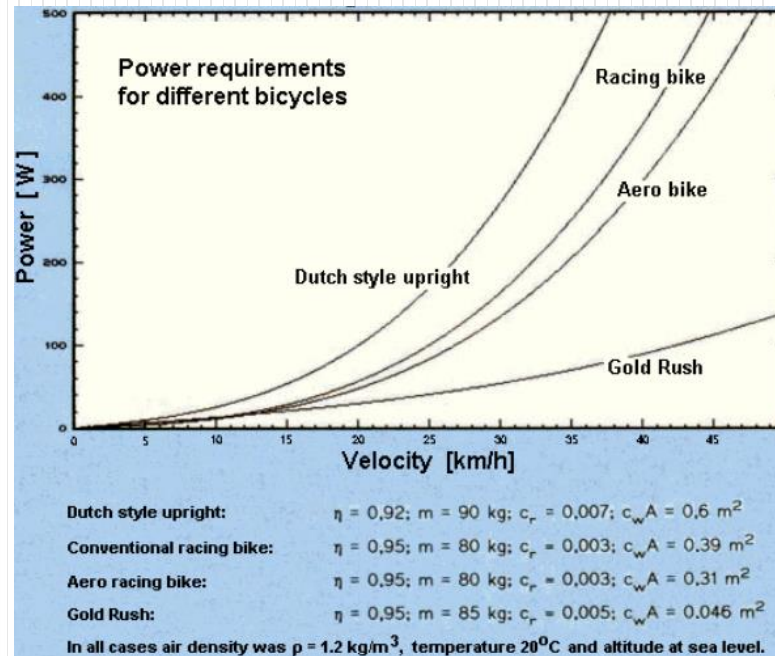
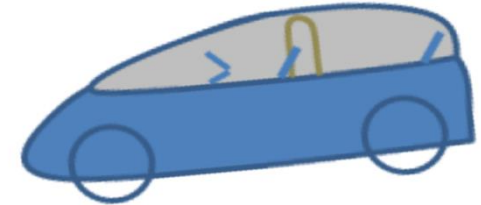
<sup>1</sup> Data from various sources, including Gross, Kyle and Malewicki (1983), and Wilson (1997).

Nice overview from Albert van Dalen

<http://www.avdweb.nl/solar-bike/energy-requirements-of-cycling.html>

Maximum  
human speed in  
velomobile  
about 132km/h  
<http://www.varnahandcycles.com/records.htm>

# Weight



Local design for future BEV  
 2 persons F2E  
 130kg curb, 90km/h  
 Improved  
 “Egg” design [1,2,10]

2.5 kWh/100km  
 2×5kW peak front drive.  
 Impact energy absorption

<http://www.sheldonbrown.com/rinard/aero/formulas.htm>

## Power Electronics and drives?

Motor  
80-> 93%  
Outer rotor,  
Thin steel, optimised

Converter  
Si-Mosfet -> Ga-N  
(Mietec)  
Factor 2 in losses:  
Both On-resistance and  
switching

Gear  
Low speed motors  
have less efficiency  
The gear is optimised  
At the same time

Battery?  
Better match  
BMS charger and  
battery  
Results in longer life

Battery?  
60% of EV cost  
Lighter vehicles and  
higher efficient drives  
need less battery....

## **Conclusion**

- **Tire improvements are a compromise with cost and reliability**
- **Drag improvements are possible, but tend towards velomobile like solutions and pure EV, ultra-light vehicles**
- **Drive improvements also help to lower the battery cost.**

# References and bibliography

- [1] Alex Van den Bossche, Diverse Influence Factors on the Range of Electric Vehicles, VPPC 2014 accepted, 27-30 October, Coimbra, 2014.
- [2] Alex Van den Bossche UGent (2014), Modeling of diverse mechanical and electrical losses in vehicles, International Conference on Electro-Energy, Abstracts. Keynote, [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Alex\\_Van\\_den\\_Bossche](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Alex_Van_den_Bossche)
- [3] The tyre Rolling Resistance and Fuel Savings, Publisher: Société de Technologie Michelin, Clermont Ferrand 2003 , 122pp.
- [4] Contributing to the conservation of the environment through products and services, bridgestone, <http://www.bridgestone.com/responsibilities/csr/environment/product.html>
- [5] E. Cichomski (Sp), W. K. Dierkes, J. W. M. Noordermeer, University of Twente, Enschede (NL);T. V. Tolpekina, S. Schultz, Apollo Vredestein BV, Enschede (NL), Influence of Physical and Chemical Polymer-filler Bonds on Wet Skid Resistance and Related Properties of Passenger Car Tire Treads <http://doc.utwente.nl/86182/1/10-2406-3-M-1200.pdf>
- [6] Samson David, Investigation of the relationship between the high frequency dynamic behavior of tread compound with wet grip performance Master thesis April, 2012 Cochin University of Science & Technology & Apollo Tyres Ltd
- [7] Tire basics, passenger car tires, continental, [http://www.continental-tyres.com.au/www/download/tyres\\_au\\_en/general/downloads/download/reifengrundlagen\\_en.pdf](http://www.continental-tyres.com.au/www/download/tyres_au_en/general/downloads/download/reifengrundlagen_en.pdf)
- [8] The ELBEV project, Peter Sergeant, Alex Van den Bossche, Guy Foubert, [http://www.energyteam.be/EN/aanverwant\\_project\\_toelichting.htm](http://www.energyteam.be/EN/aanverwant_project_toelichting.htm)
- [9] waw and e-waw [www.fietser.be](http://www.fietser.be)
- [10] Isabelle Hofman, Peter Sergeant and Alex Van den Bossche, Optimisation of Motor and Gearbox for an Ultra-light Electric Vehicle, FISITA 2014 , June 2-6 J, 2014 Maastricht 7pp
- [11] Alex Van den Bossche, How to reduce the energy needs of electrical and conventional vehicles, Workshop on Electric Mobility WELMO, At Faculty of Science and Technology– Marrakech – Morocco, Volume: 1

## Abstract:

Rolling and drag losses are important in electric vehicles. There is a compromise between price, lifetime, reliability and rolling resistance for tires. In electric bicycles improving the drag would end up in faired bicycles and velomobiles. Still future improvements can be expected from the efficiency of motors, converters and gears.

Improving efficiency reduces the cost of the battery which might be typically 60% of the vehicle cost.

## Keywords:

Rolling loss, rubber, temperature coefficient, drag, electric vehicle, electric bikes, ultra-light vehicles.